

MESOPOTAMIAN MINUTE

- Current News on Agriculture & USDA in Iraq -
Office of Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Baghdad

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The Iraqi Red Meats Association Celebrates First Anniversary

The Iraqi Red Meats Association celebrated its one-year anniversary with a recognition ceremony for all the participants who have attended the meetings throughout the last year. Participants spent the morning at the cattle yards, practicing cow handling and body condition scoring. Those who completed the majority of training activities for the past 6 months received certificates of achievement and a Sheep Flock Management Guide (donated by Premier1 Company).



Al Anbar University Date Tissue Culture Laboratory– In June 2011 PRT Anbar completed a project to develop a Date Tissue Culture Laboratory at the Center for Desert Studies at Al Anbar University. This laboratory will be used for research as well as educating students on this relatively new technology. By using this technology the professors will be able to produce date saplings much faster and less expensive than the traditional method. The total cost of this project was \$125,000 and was funded with grant from CERP.

Personnel Update - There are currently 14 USDA personnel in Iraq including those with Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), at Embassy Baghdad or embedded with U.S. military units. With this issue we say good bye to Alex Miller who did a rock solid job as Ag Advisor to PRT Anbar Province.

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